

enrollees was contradicted by a state review and by data from Xantus itself.

It concedes the state didn't allow Xantus to close its rolls to new members and also rejected a plan in August 1998 that would have cut management expenses from 17% to 11%.

The state should shoulder some of the blame, said Craig Becker, Tennessee Hospital Association president, who represents hospitals that have unpaid Xantus claims.

"The ultimate responsibility belongs to the state," he said. "It was their lack of oversight that allowed it to happen."

AGRICULTURAL RISK PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2559) to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act, to strengthen the safety net for agricultural producers by providing greater access to more affordable risk management tools and improve protection from production and income loss, to improve the efficiency and integrity of the Federal crop insurance program, and for other purposes:

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2559, the Agricultural Risk Protection Act. I would like to start by saying how impressed I am with the progress the House has made this year in transforming the concept of Federal crop insurance reform into the legislation we have in front of us today.

In 1994, as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I had the opportunity to help write the last revision of the Federal crop insurance program. While the 1994 bill was a step in the right direction, that reform was done under the old Depression-era farm policy. I said then that the crop insurance program needed to become more farmer friendly by providing participation incentives for farmers.

As everyone in this chamber should recall, on February 1, 1999, the President submitted to Congress his fiscal year (FY) 2000 budget which failed to include a single dollar for crop insurance reform. After the President submitted his budget, I began working with House Budget Committee Chairman KASICH to provide funds for crop insurance reform in the House's FY 2000 budget. After a long hard-fought battle, on March 25, 1999, the House took a critical step in securing the necessary funds to reform crop insurance this year by providing \$6 billion over five years for crop insurance in the FY 2000 budget. This decision by the Budget Committee gave the House and Senate Agriculture Committees the flexibility to address the need for workable risk management tools that are available to all farmers.

I applaud the House Agriculture Committee for the legislation they have brought before the House today. This legislation will provide future stability in the farm safety net by increasing premium assistance to producers, rewarding the productive capability of farmers, and

creating new coverage for falling crop values and livestock losses. This legislation simply offers more choices to more farmers and less cost to farmers and taxpayers.

This bill addresses the need for workable risk management tools that are available to all farmers. This is the kind of long-term help the Federal Government can and should provide to American farmers in the 21st century, without turning back the clock to Depression-era programs that had Washington bureaucrats telling farmers what to plant and where to plant it. By passing this legislation, establishing strong foreign markets, reducing burdensome regulations, and improving access to affordable financing for farmers, I believe our government can give farmers the tools they need to compete in a world market. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2559.

HONORING STEPHEN PROCTOR

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephen Proctor, Chief Executive Officer for Presbyterian Homes, Inc., who is stepping down from the chairmanship of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. I am proud to be able to pay tribute to a man who has such a strong commitment to assisting in the care of the elderly.

For the last two years, Stephen Proctor has served as the chair of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA). AAHSA consists of over 5,300 organizations for care of the elderly such as non-profit nursing homes, assisted living, senior housing facilities and community service organizations. Everyday, Mr. Proctor contributed to serving one million older persons across the country through his chairmanship of this organization.

In 1971, Mr. Proctor began his career with the aging as a Director of Nursing for the Schock Presbyterian Home but soon became its Administrator, a position that he served until 1975. The following year, Mr. Proctor became the Administrator at the Oxford Manor Presbyterian Home where he worked for three years before becoming the Chief Operating Officer for Presbyterian Homes, Inc. in 1979. After 16 years in this position, Mr. Proctor became the Chief Executive Officer in 1995, a position that he currently holds.

In addition to having begun his career in long-term care as a nurse, Mr. Proctor has dedicated himself to serving elders in many of official capacities. He became an accomplished member of the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging, becoming its president in 1982. Beginning in 1983, he chaired the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare's Medical Assistance Advisory Committee's Long-Term Care Subcommittee, an honor that he served for eleven years. Furthermore, Mr. Proctor currently holds a position on the Pennsylvania Intra-Governmental Council on Long-Term Care.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Stephen Proctor as he steps down from his chairmanship of the

American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. I commend him not only for his many accomplishments but also for his continuing service for the elderly. I send him my very best wishes for his future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 22, I had to return to North Carolina due the death of my father and was absent for votes the remainder of the week.

During my absence, on September 22, 23, and 24, 1999, I missed rollcall votes 430 through 447. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcalls 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, and 435, "yes" on rollcalls 436 and 437, "no" on rollcalls 438, 439, 440, 441, and 442, "yes" on rollcalls 443 and 444, "no" on rollcalls 445, "yes" on rollcall 446, and "no" on rollcall 447.

POLICE STILL KILLING SIKHS IN PUNJAB

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on September 22, Burning Punjab reported that Devinder Singh, a young Sikh, died in police custody at the Ropar police station on September 18. A witness said that third-degree methods were used to extract "false information" from him. His brother and two associates said that he died of injuries inflicted by the police. The two associates were unable to walk due to injuries from torture.

About a week earlier, another young Sikh was killed by the police in the Sarhali police station. On August 16, Lakhbir Singh Lakha was tortured to death in police custody at police post, Chohla Sahib. Mr. Inder Singh, father of the deceased said they had to wait for the body as his son had died 48 hours earlier. Gurpreet, a 17½-year-old Sikh girl, was abducted and raped repeatedly by the son of a Punjab Akali minister and his brother-in-law. Another Catholic priest was murdered in Orissa by allies of the governing party.

The Indian government says that there are no more human-rights violations occurring in Punjab, yet incidents like these keep coming to light.

These terrible incidents are just part of a pattern that has seen the Indian forces allegedly murder over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, as well as more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1948, over 65,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and thousands of other minorities such as Tamils, Manipuris, Dalit "untouchables," and Assamese people.

I thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing these terrible incidents to my attention. These incidents show that for minorities like the Sikhs

and others, there is no security in India. That is why the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and others seek their independence.

I call on my colleagues to support an internationally-supervised plebiscite in Punjab on the question of independence. These people should be given the same opportunity that citizens of Puerto Rico and Quebec have received—the chance to decide their political future and status in a democratic vote.

Many believe that the breakup of India is inevitable. Since India now has nuclear weapons, the democratic countries of the world, led by the United States, must work to make sure that if this happens, it happens peacefully like in Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic and Slovakia), not violently like in Yugoslavia. We can prevent another Yugoslavia type crisis from breaking out in South Asia by encouraging the democratic process in the subcontinent. Let us take this stand and help ensure democracy and stability throughout the region.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF VERN AND NORMA BATES

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Vern and Norma Bates on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary celebration. The Bateses were married in my home town of Bay City, Michigan, on June 3, 1950, thus beginning the marriage which would see them to the close of this century, and into the next millennium. During this half century together they have developed a marriage which remains one that all of us in the Fifth Congressional District aspire to and admire.

In July 1950, Vern and Norma Bates began their married life together in Caro, Michigan, where Vern established his own barber business, and together, the couple began their many civic contributions. During these early years, they were blessed with a kind and loving family, with the arrival of their three children, Annette, Timothy, and James. Today, the Bateses are proud grandparents of Chad, Eric, Jodi, and Scott.

In 1962, Vern Bates accepted a position with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulation, first as a barber, and later as a hearing officer. He remained there until his retirement in April 1992. For 12 years, Mr. Bates was a member of the Caro School Board, where he served as President.

In 1988, Norma Bates was elected County Commissioner for the Village of Caro, Indian Fields and Wells Townships. Previously, she had served as Board Chairperson as well as on numerous other boards and committees in the community. She is currently serving in her fifth term in office.

Vern and Norma Bates have contributed greatly to the Caro community. They are active members of the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Caro, where both have held numerous offices and positions. They are leaders in the local Little League. Their civic contributions to

the community and public service are exemplary. Indeed, Vern and Norma Bates are beloved by their family, honored by their neighbors, and venerated by the Caro community.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that you will agree that both Vern and Norma's many life accomplishments can be attributed to their great commitment to each other, to their commitment to a marriage which weathers any storm and upholds all sacred vows. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and our colleagues to join with me in honoring Mr. and Mrs. Vern and Norma Bates, on this celebration of their 50 years of marriage.

IN HONOR OF TOMASZ WYSZYNSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Tomasz Wyszynski as he is being honored for promoting his Polish Heritage through his outstanding accomplishments by the Polonia Foundation.

Tomasz Wyszynski is a man of many personal and career accomplishments. After joining the Army, Tomasz had the opportunity to live in Russia, Iraq, India, South Africa, France, and England. In addition, he has exhibited a tremendous aptitude for languages, he learned to speak not only his native Polish, but English and enough Russian, German, and Hindi to make himself understood to communicate.

When Tomasz Wyszynski later settled in Akron, Ohio, he joined the Polonia of Akron Lodge and took his first position as a Trustee. Soon after, he developed an interest in insurance sales to assist others in providing necessities and security.

Tomasz Wyszynski has been a tireless worker, coordinator, and recruiter for the Polish National Alliance. To date he has recruited over 2,000 people to the Polish National Alliance membership in addition to being a member since the organization's inception. His contributions to the Polonia Society have been continuous and awe-inspiring, he has always been willing to help others.

I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in commending Tommy Wyszynski for his dedication, service, and leadership in the Cleveland community. Our community has certainly been rewarded by the true service displayed by Tomasz Wyszynski.

RECOGNIZING DALE CURTIS

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dale Curtis of Ellisville, Kenneth Jewson of St. Charles, and Richard Stevens of Fenton, who have completed their rigorous training at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The National Academy's 11-week training program prepares men and

women in law enforcement to meet their challenges of the future.

The FBI's National Academy students are selected from the managerial ranks of the state, local, and international police agencies. The academy's graduates set the standard for integrity, competence, and dedication throughout the law enforcement profession. I am pleased that these law enforcement officers from the second district attended the FBI National Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will follow me in offering these outstanding officers our congratulations, and the best of luck in their future endeavors as law enforcement professionals.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on September 23, 1999, on the first Lofgren motion (rollcall No. 438) to instruct conferees on H.R. 1501, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1999, I was recorded as voting "yea" when I intended to vote "nay."

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT CHEN

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Albert Chen of Chino, California, a constituent of mine from the 41st congressional district.

Mr. Chen is the founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Telamon Electronics, which provides pre-installation assembly, material management and other services to the high-tech industry in Southern California. This 10-year old company has annual revenues in excess of \$140 million and is headquartered in Chino. As one of the highest tax-generators of the 2,100 businesses in the region, Telamon Electronics currently adds approximately \$1 million annually in tax revenue to our area.

Under Mr. Chen's capable leadership, Telamon Electronics recently brokered a \$120 million business deal with two other leading national high-tech companies, GTE and Nortel Networks. This new working relationship will provide new jobs, new opportunities, and new services for the residents of Chino, western San Bernardino County and eastern Los Angeles County. I believe this is a perfect example of big business working with small business to the mutual benefit of the economy and our diverse society.

I congratulate Mr. Chen on his recent successes, and I welcome the new business partnerships between Telamon, GTE and Nortel Networks to my congressional district. Together, this new "team" will be providing a valuable service to the high-tech industry, while continuing to develop and implement cutting edge Internet technology.